

July 30, 2012

From: David Watson

To: PRC, Secretary of the Commission

Re: Docket MC2012-26

My wife and I own a UPS Store, a literal mom and pop business. Our primary source of revenue is mailbox rentals. Our mailboxes offer many benefits compared to the USPS version. Our mailbox holders have a real street address. We can accept packages from any shipper and send our customer an email letting them know a package has arrived. Customers can call us to check their mail and we will forward their mail to them if they are out of the area. The USPS has proposed to add these features to their mailbox rentals.

This is yet another example of big government killing small business. It must be stopped.

Is it good public policy to have the government competing against its own citizens? Providing services that the private sector cannot provide at a reasonable price, especially those that benefit not just those directly served, but society as a whole indirectly is certainly something they should do. But the private sector can, and does provide reasonably priced Postal Mailboxes. Society doesn't benefit by the Post Office just under-cutting the price charged by the private sector. It's not like they're providing free mailboxes to those who can't afford it. They're competitively pricing their product, so there is no societal benefit.

A grocery store doesn't complain about a publicly funded food bank that might open right next door, but if the government opened a grocery store next door, offering the same products at just a slightly lower price, that would be a problem. The food bank serves a societal need, but there is no societal need for the government to get into the grocery store business, and compete with private grocers who have to pay property taxes, and follow other local rules that the feds would be exempt from.

They wouldn't want to compete with us if the playing field was level.

Killing our businesses, and putting our employees on the unemployment line to do something that isn't going to solve their underlying problems anyway is just poor public policy.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Watson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature across the page.

David Watson